

Division of Information Technology Services Technical Bulletin

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NOT CATLGD 2 Data Sets

From time to time jobs have received message IEF287I. Without reviewing the JES2 message log this message can be overlooked, furthermore looking at job step condition codes will not detect this error. The most common reason for receiving this message is because the job ran to completion, (zero return code) but the data set to be cataloged has been cataloged previously. Subsequent jobs that used the catalog facility by using only the DSNNAME and not the specific VOL parameter would use the previously cataloged data set. This more than likely is not the intended outcome.

To understand how this could happen requires a short discussion on how jobs run. Allocation and cataloging are two independent functions in the non-DFSMS environment. The State of Utah currently runs in the non-DFSMS environment. When a job requests a new allocation, MVS will check to ensure that the data set is not on the volume specified on the DD statement before allocating the space. The data set is cataloged much later, when the data set is unallocated during step termination. Therefore, JCL with a non specific allocation (the use of an esoteric name of TSOVOL without any VOL parameter), or JCL with SYSDA and a reference to a different volume on subsequent jobs, will allow data sets to be created on more than one volume.

Beginning October 13, 1991, MVS will be changed to issue several new messages pertaining to this condition. The job will fail with a JCL error message IEF378I and any subsequent steps will not be run. The condition code will still reflect the value returned from the program. If that program ended successfully then the condition code would be zero just as before. Other messages that will be issued after this date to identify catalog failures follow:

IEF378I JOBNAME STEPNAME PROCNAME - JOB FAILED -
 TIME=HH.MM.SS CATALOG DISPOSITION ERROR

IEF379I JOBNAME STEPNAME PROCNAME JOB ENDED BECAUSE OF CATLG
 ERROR

A manual review of the JES2 message log will still be needed to detect these errors, however, the use of a NOTIFY parameter on the JOBCARD will help this search because the JES2 message \$HASP165 (JCL error) is issued to the TSO user ID specified in the NOTIFY parameter.

Through the use of automated software that we have installed on our test system we have been able to trap message IEF379I. In the very near future this trap will be available on all systems and we will be able to do a number of things at that time. Certainly, processing will be stopped at that time before any more damage is done, and the data set can be cataloged properly. One option currently under review is to highlight the message and leave it on the MVS operators console to alert the operator that a job has failed with a catalog problem. As we further explore automated software, other options to handle messages will become available to us, and we will take advantage of them in the future.

If you have any questions or problems concerning this technical bulletin please contact System Programming at 538-3170.